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TAGS:FAO, UN, UNWFC, IFAD

SUBJECT: FAO RELATIONS WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, INTER-NATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT (CGFPI)

REF: (A) ROME 2633; (B) STATE 19296; (C) ROME 1143

(D) ROME A-22

ROME FOR FODAG

1. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY MENTIONED REFTEL (A) THAT FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA MAY RAISE ISSUE OF FAOS RELATIONS WITH IFAD AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) IN CONTEXT OF UN
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING CURRENTLY MEETING IN NEW

YORK, FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED US DELEGATION ON
CONTINGENCY BASIS.

2. ALTHOUGH CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES SEE NO DIRECT
LINK BETWEEN SAOUAMA'S ORGANIZATIONAL INITIATIVES (IN
RECENT IFAD AND WFC WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD IN ROME)
AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING,
THERE IS MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS
CONCERNED THAT (1) OVER-CENTRALIZATION OF THE UN SYSTEM MAY
STRIP THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THEIR ESSENTIAL RESPONSI-
BILITIES; AND (2) OPERATIONS OF EXISTING AND NEW INSTITUTIONS
(INCLUDING THE CGFPI) IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
MAY NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE PERCEIVES IS THE
"PARAMOUNT RESPONSIBILITY" OF FAO IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT.
GIVEN THESE CONCERNS, AS WELL AS THE CONGRUITY BETWEEN
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTION 3362 ESTABLISHING THE AD
HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING AND SAOUAMA'S STATED
OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR FAO (REF D), IT SEEMS
REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT SAOUAMA VIEWS HIS PARTICIPATION
IN THE MEETING IN NEW YORK AS A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO
PUSH HOME THE SUGGESTIONS AND ARGUMENTS MADE EARLIER IN
ROME.

3. WITH REGARD TO IFAD, THE ESSENTIAL US POSITION HAS BEEN
SPELLED OUT IN REFTELS (B) AND (C). BRIEFLY, WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE RESOLUTION XIII SUGGESTED THAT THE SYG CONVENE
A MEETING OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS TO WORK OUT
ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS. THIS HAS NOW BEEN
DONE, AND THE INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AT THEIR THIRD
MEETING IN ROME (JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6) CONCLUDED
NEGOTIATIONS ON A DRAFT AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING IFAD. MOST
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AGREED WITH THE CONSENSUS AT THE
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THAT IFAD SHOULD BE AN INDEPENDENT
FINANCIAL AGENCY WHOSE DISBURSEMENTS WOULD BE MADE THROUGH
EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. SINCE THE
ONLY FORMAL PROVISION MADE FOR EXTERNAL POLICY INPUT WAS
A RECOMMENDATION BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE CALLING UPON
THE IFAD BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
VIEWS ON AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT WHICH MIGHT BE EXPRESSED
BY THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT
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THE RECENT MEETING IN ROME DECLINED TO GIVE SPECIAL
CONSIDERATION TO FAO IN DRAFTING THE IFAD ARTICLES OF
AGREEMENT. IT IS THE U.S. POSITION THAT IFAD ITSELF, WHEN
FORMALLY ESTABLISHED, SHOULD NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH
THE APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF THE UN SYSTEM, INCLUDING FAO.
WE BELIEVE THAT IFAD IS OF CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL IMPOR-
TANCE IN MEETING THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND TRUST THAT

MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE AND FLEXIBILITY WILL ENHANCE ITS
EFFECTIVENESS.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, U.S. POSITION IS THAT SAOUMA'S ATTEMPTS TO SUBORDINATE THE COUNCIL TO FAO ARE UNACCEPTABLE ON SEVERAL GROUNDS. FIRST, THEY APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WHICH ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL TO SERVE AS A COORDINATING MECHANISM TO PROVIDE OVERALL, INTEGRATED AND CONTINUING ATTENTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES AND PROBLEMS "BY ALL THE AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM." SINCE THE COUNCIL,

ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE SPELLED OUT BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IS TO FUNCTION AS AN ORGAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPORTING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE ECOSOC, ITS BASIC STATUS AND LINE OF AUTHORITY ARE CLEAR. SECOND, SHOULD THERE BE ANY DOUBT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN THIS REGARD, IT MAY BE POINTED OUT THAT RESOLUTION 3348 OF THE TWENTY-NINTH UNGA ENDORSED THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND ESTABLISHED THE WFC AT THE MINISTERIAL OR PLENIPOTENTIARY LEVEL HAVING THE PURPOSES, FUNCTIONS AND MODE OF OPERATION SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION XXII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

5. CONCERNING PRACTICAL WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER UN AGENCIES, THE REQUEST IN PARAGRAPH 11 OF UN RESOLUTION 3348 HAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE WORKING GROUP, VIZ. DRAFT RULE 26: "THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHALL, IN CARRYING OUT HIS FUNCTIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK AND THE SERVICING OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL HAVE CONCLUDED, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO AND WITH THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES CONCERNED." SINCE THE DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE ARE TO BE PRESENTED FOR MINISTERS FOR THEIR APPROVAL, IT IS UP TO MINISTERS AT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO MAKE OR RECOMMEND ANY ADJUSTMENTS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING HENCE DOES NOT HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THIS QUESTION.

6. SIMILARLY, WITH REGARD TO CGFPI THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS UNIQUE POTENTIAL WITHIN THE UN

SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE A LARGER FLOW OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT
IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND A MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF AVAILABLE
RESOURCES BY RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. IT IS THE U.S. POSITION
THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE ORGANIZATION WILL DEPEND IN
LARGE MEASURE ON THE SUPPORT IT RECEIVES FROM ITS THREE
SPONSORING AGENCIES, FAO, UNDP AND IBRD. IT SHOULD BE
NOTED THAT RESOLUTION XXII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE,
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CGFPI, WAS ENDORSED BY THE
UNGA IN DECEMBER 1974, AND THE EXECUTIVE EADS OF THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WERE ASKED TO TAKE EXPEDITIOUS
ACTION IN LINE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
CONFERENCE.

7. IN SUM, THE US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO IFAD, WFC AND
THE CGFPI IS THAT THEY WERE DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH CERTAIN

OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE
UN SYSTEM WERE INADEQUATE. GIVEN THE URGENCY AND
SERIOUSNESS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, WE BELIEVE THESE
NEW INSTITUTIONS WERE INTENDED TO HAVE --AND SHOULD IN
FACT BE GIVEN-- MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE AND FLEXIBILITY IN
CARRYING OUT THEIR AGREED FUNCTIONS. INGERSOLL

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